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THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (a) One.

(b) The Medical Officer of the Primary Health Centre at Perangattur was relieved on 14th January 1965 forenoon to undergo the condensed M.B.B.S. course. A substitute could not be posted immediately due to acute shortage of Medical Officers in Madras Medical Service. A substitute has since joined duty on 23rd May 1965.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Is the Hon. Minister aware that there are many Primary Health Centres in almost all the districts without doctors for long periods of time, say, even more than six months? Will the Government do something with regard to this?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: I do not think there are many centres without doctors; at least so far as my knowledge goes, there are only four primary health centres without doctors, and that too only during the past three months.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER: Will the Government relax the age rules and appoint superannuated doctors to these health centres to man them? These doctors will be very quiet and pleasant in villages.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: Sir, the hon. Member's suggestion will be taken into consideration.

DR. H. V. HANDE: How many health centres are there in the North Arcot District and how many of them have doctors?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: I want notice of a separate question, Sir.

Panchayat Union Councils

* 27 Q.—DR. H. V. HANDE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of deaths that took place and the prosecutions launched in connection with the elections to Panchayat Union Councils?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID: The particulars called for from the Collectors of districts are awaited.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Sir, generally it takes such a long time for questions being answered, and even then they say particulars are awaited from the Collectors, which is not very helpful to the member who puts the question. Will the Government look into the matter and see that the answers, full answers, are obtained and given to the House as quickly as possible?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID: Some Collectors have sent in their replies and reports from some others are awaited.

DR. H. V. HANDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question may be postponed for the present and answered by the Government after getting the reports from all Collectors.

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Mr. CHAIRMAN : After all the reports of the Collectors are received, probably the Government will inform the hon. Member about it.

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Without the possession of the information required by the Member, will it be proper for the Hon. Minister to say that particulars are awaited.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : If the particulars called for have not reached the Hon. Minister, what can he do?

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : He should take steps to see that the particulars are expeditiously collected by the department concerned and the answer furnished in the House within a reasonable time. Of course there may be some delays in regard to certain cases.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, question are required to be answered within a stipulated time according to the Legislative Council Rules. Sometimes extensions of time are also obtained for answering the questions. If particulars are not available even after the extended time, the Minister has no other alternative than to say that the reports or particulars called for are awaited.

Dr. H. V. HANDE : Many questions to which answers are not available are not answered. Because these questions with such answers as 'particulars are awaited or are being collected' are tabled, we are put to the trouble of probing into them again by putting fresh questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members who give notice of questions are anxious to know the result. Even though the information asked for is not available, they want to know something as to what is happening to their questions. And therefore the Ministers have to give such answers as 'The information called for is awaited'.

Dr. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Sir, we in the Assurances Committee had a discussion on the very subject, because the number of assurances given on the floor of the House were not implemented in time. The Hon. the Leader of the House at the time said he would expedite matters and see that assurances were replied to within a period of three months.

So, I would request you, Mr. Chairman, in consultation with the Hon. Ministers, to fix a time limit by which those who are responsible to supply the answers do supply the answers. Because, Sir, after all a question is of value only if answered at a particular time and becomes completely out of date if the answers are not furnished for months together.

Sir, I would request the Government to look into the matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : So far as the Council Department is concerned, all possible steps are taken to expedite the answers from the departments. I hope what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition said will be noted by the Government.